

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing data to an application, comprising the steps of:

5 providing a mailfile of documents having a section and fields;

receiving a request from an application for one of said documents;

retrieving said fields of said one of said documents from said mailfile;

10 in response to said fields, retrieving said one of said documents as a markup language document;

inserting a URL into said markup language document to retrieve said section of said one of said documents;

15 retrieving said section from said mailfile in said markup language;

removing said URL from the retrieved document and creating an object having said section expanded in the retrieved document; and

sending said object to said application.

20 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said fields are retrieved as an XML document.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said markup language is HTML.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said one of said documents has a file attachment link.

5 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of
retrieving said attachment, removing said link, and inserting
said attachment into said object.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said one of said documents has an image tag.

10 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of
retrieving the image of said image tag, encoding said image, and
inserting the encoded image in place of said image tag in the
retrieved document.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said one of said documents has a link to other items in said document.

15 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of
retrieving the content of said link, and inserting said content
in the retrieved document at the position of said link.

10. A system for providing data stored in a mailfile to an application, comprising:

a mailfile having data stored as documents with sections;

a database for passing a request for one of said documents to
5 said mailfile and upon return converting said one of said documents into an extended markup format;

an authentication directory having authentication records for an application; and

mail and calendaring web service software for receiving a request
10 from an application for a document, receiving text files in an extended markup format from said database, accessing binary data from said mailfile, creating an object comprising the converted document with said binary data inserted, authenticating said application using said directory, and sending said object to said
15 application.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein said database and said software run on different servers.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein said extended markup format is XML.

13. The system of claim 10, wherein said software is adapted to
20 operate without the need of a mail or calendaring client.

14. The system of claim 10, wherein said software is adapted to retrieve said sections of said document from said mailfile.

15. The system of claim 10, wherein said binary data is an image file.

5 16. A computer system for exposing a mail and calendaring document to an application, said system comprising:

means for storing mail and calendaring documents having a section and fields, in a mailfile;

10 means for receiving a request from an application for one of said documents;

means for retrieving said fields of said one of said documents from said mailfile as an extended markup language document;

inserting a URL into said extended markup language document to retrieve said section of said one of said documents;

15 retrieving said section from said mailfile in a second markup language;

removing said URL from the retrieved document and creating an object having said section expanded in the retrieved document; and

20 sending said object to said application.

17. The computer system of claim 16, wherein said extended markup language is XML.

18. The computer system of claim 17, wherein said second markup language is HTML.

5 19. A computer program product for instructing a processor to provide mail and calendaring data to an application, said computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium;

10 first program instruction means for retrieving fields in an extended markup language, of a document having a section, in a mailfile, in response to a request from an application;

second program instruction means for inserting a URL into said document to retrieve said section of said document;

15 third program instruction means for retrieving said section from said mailfile in a second markup language;

fourth program instruction means for removing said URL from the retrieved document and creating an object having said section expanded in the retrieved document; and

20 fifth program instruction means for sending said object to said application; and wherein

all said program instruction means are recorded on said medium.

20. The computer program product of claim 19, wherein said extended markup language is XML.